

## RESOLUTION NO. 13-84

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that on December 31, 2012, Senior Pastor Leroy R. Cole retired as the spiritual leader of the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church after 34 years of outstanding ministry and leadership. He will be honored with a Retirement Celebration on Saturday, February 16, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson Center in Research Park, Huntsville, Alabama; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Cole was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Service and Leadership have been cornerstones of Leroy R. Cole's life. Reverend Cole has always been ready to blaze new trails and challenges. After earning a degree in Electrical Engineering from Southern University in Baton Rouge, he saw new opportunities and their challenges everywhere he looked. He served his country in the U. S. Army and was honorably discharged as a Captain in 1969. He joined Federal Electric Corporation and worked as a Reliability Engineer on the Apollo Space program in 1969. He then joined GTE as a Manufacturing Engineer in 1973 and left as a Manager of Manufacturing Engineering in 1983. He created the Manufacturing Engineering Department at Intergraph in 1985 and also served as its manager. He led Triana Industries for nine years as Chief Operating Officer. Reverend Cole chose to retire from Triana Industries in 2006 to serve as Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church's full-time pastor; and,

**WHEREAS**, more importantly than these accomplishments, has been the success of Reverend Cole's ministry at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church. He was called to serve Hopewell in 1978 and served as a teacher, warrior, workman, vessel and team-builder. By 1998, the church had outgrown its old building, and a new facility was constructed. On September 13, 1998, God blessed Hopewell to worship in their new facility; and,

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell is a leader in community missions, organizing tutoring and mentoring programs, distributing food to the hungry and maintaining the community's only Red Cross-certified shelter in the New Market, Alabama area. "Hopewell has been utilized by God in this community for 150 years," Reverend Cole said, "and I believe we'll be here until he comes, doing the work of the Lord;" and,

**WHEREAS**, while the New Market Community was introduced to the "Hopewell Experience," a phrase coined by Reverend Cole, he was creating a different type of experience in the greater community --- one of service. Reverend Cole served on the Red Cross Advisory Board representing the business community and on the Board of the Interfaith Mission Service as a representative from the religious community. He was a co-founder of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship (GHIMF) in the early 1980's. GHIMF now has over 100 local pastors and ministers. As chairman of the GHIMF Social Action Committee, Reverend Cole regularly met with Huntsville's mayor, Madison County Commissioners, Huntsville City Council members, police and sheriff officials to discuss issues of importance to citizens of Madison County; and,

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-84**

Senior Pastor Leroy R. Cole

February 14, 2013

Page 2

**WHEREAS**, education has always been a priority in Reverend Cole's life. He realized there was a need to serve all the children of the county and not just his community. He served as a member of the Huntsville City Schools System Strategic Planning Committee; and as president and vice president of the Board of Directors for The Community Intensive Treatment Youth (CITY) Program for Huntsville City Schools, an alternative school for students in grades 7-11. He and his education team at Hopewell worked with the Madison County Schools Superintendent and Madison County Board of Education to create the first two-week Intersession Tutoring program. When Madison County schools went into spring recess, Hopewell staff and volunteers tutored students from all grades who were recommended by teachers or counselors for extra help; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Cole is married to Linda Graham Cole, and they have been wondrously blessed with four sons: Lamar, Lance and Ladell Cole and Damien Goodwin; and,

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Cole continues to serve his God, church and community. He took on the role of Pastor Emeritus in December 2012 and looks forward to many more years of servant leadership. Reverend Cole says, "I'm retiring from pastoring, but not from preaching and teaching."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and recognize Senior Pastor Leroy R. Cole for his 34 years of ministry and service to the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church and citizens of Huntsville and Madison County. We extend best wishes on his retirement and for all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** this the 14th day of February, 2013

---

President of the City Council  
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** this the 14th day of February, 2013.

---

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

